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**CITY OF HUNTINGTON BEACH
COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION
MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING**

**Wednesday, January 11, 2017
6:00 PM
City of Huntington Beach
Civic Center Council Chambers
2000 Main Street
Huntington Beach, CA 92648-2702**

CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Kreitz called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. at which time the Pledge of Allegiance was said.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Antonio Benitez; Paul Burkhart; Joe Carchio; Nicolina Cuzzacrea; Albert Gasparian; Bridget Kaub; Jay Kreitz; Amy Kwon; Janis Mantini; Michelle Schuetz, Krista Sterud, Dick Thiel

MEMBERS ABSENT: Roy Miller (excused)

STAFF PRESENT: Janeen Laudenback; David Dominguez; Charlene Gomez

PRESENTATIONS:

Gomez administered the Oath of Office to new Council appointed Commissioners, Carchio, Mantini, Schuetz, and Sterud.

Dominguez introduced the new Commissioners as Joe Carchio appointed by Council Member Brenden; Janice Mantini, appointed by Mayor Delgleize; Michelle Schuetz, appointed by Mayor Pro Tem Posey, and Krista Sterud, appointed by Council Member Semeta.

Recreation Specialist, Aaron Katayama and College Intern, Nicole Fukuzawa presented the Fall Volleyball Championship and Harry W. Montague Sportsmanship Awards. The program is taught using the Six Values of Character. Individual players were introduced and team photos taken after receiving their awards. Laudenback commented that she enjoys seeing the young athletes and appreciates the teaching of the pillars of character – not only the fundamentals of sports. She said it's a nice way to mentor staff and she enjoys watching staff work their way up through the recreation system.

MINUTES:

Motion: A motion was made by Kaub and seconded by Thiel to approve the minutes as written for the November 9, 2016 Community Services Commission meeting.

Ayes: Benitez; Cuzzacrea; Gasparian; Kaub; Kwon; Kreitz; Thiel

Noes: None

Abstain: Carchio; Mantini; Schuetz; Sterud

Absent: Miller

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Jean Nagy, President of the Huntington Beach Tree Society said that the Tree Society took in \$35,000 in donations last year, but spent \$85,000 for the City, not to mention millions of dollars per year in volunteer hours in savings. Ms. Nagy invited Commissioners to come out to the park to view the area she is recommending for the scout camp. She said that kids can rent horses, go fishing and it's a potential source of revenue for the City. Ms. Nagy asked Commission to consider this recommendation as a project.

Juana Mueller spoke on agenda Item F-1, the temporary parking lot. She asked Commission not to make a decision tonight. Her opinion was that, more dialog is needed and a look at the park as a whole. Ms. Mueller is suggesting that the project be sent to the Huntington Central Park Committee (HCP) for input.

Steve Engel said that good progress is being made at Central park. He thanked Commission, the Community Services Dept., Public Works, the Police, and Fire for their efforts and said everyone is making this a great City. Mr. Engel offered Commission a tour of the gardens. Mr. Engel mentioned the parking lot is under water and suggests it become a permanent lot. He recommends reviewing the parking lot size so that it is sustainable to future growth.

Richard Lucian spoke on the homeless encampments at the picnic tables in the park. He has encountered some individuals with their dogs. Neighbors have talked to the police, who tell them that they can't do anything to the transients without a crime involved. Mr. Lucian described some incidents and said that he feels threatened. He recommends closing the park at sunset, and a smaller lot.

Kay Goddard from Shipley Nature Center said that she feels the lot proposed in agenda Item F-1 is not the solution and that it is located in the wrong area of the park. She feels it needs to be at ground level for those with strollers, wheel chairs and disabilities. She also mentioned the homeless issued in this area and urges Commission not to accept the proposed plan. She also feels it needs a turn-around for buses.

Tom Livengood is a member of the Shipley Nature Center Board said that the lot shown in the conceptual plan is too small for use by Shipley Nature Center and Central park users. Mr. Livengood urges Commission to consider a turn-around for buses and voiced his concern for the safety of the children who come to the Center for tours.

DIRECTOR/MANAGER ITEMS:

Dominguez welcomed the new Commissioners and said that if they have any questions, they should contact Dominguez or Gomez.

Dominguez said that the General Plan Update Committee is meeting in February and have asked for a representative from Commission to serve on the Circulation Task Force. Dominguez asked those interested to email Chair Kreitz or Dominguez.

Chair Kreitz asked Gomez to send out a committee survey to the new Commissioners and asked them to select committees of their interest. He will take their interest into consideration when adjusting the committees.

Chair Kreitz also asked Dominguez and Gomez to schedule a park tour again for new commissioners and those who could not attend the last one.

Chair Kreitz asked Dominguez to give an overview of the CIP for the new Commissioners at the next meeting.

PUBLIC INPUT MEETING:

Dominguez gave a PowerPoint presentation on the proposed parking lot concept, providing history, and stating that the concept of a permanent parking lot in that area of the park was part of the Master Plan of Recreation Uses for Central Park back in 1999, but it was never constructed. He said that since Commission met last about the parking lot, the lawsuit pertaining to the Senior Center in Central Park has been settled and an area adjacent to the current temporary lot has been set aside restricting development per a settlement agreement. Dominguez reviewed a redline diagram showing how the parking lot could be developed, using most of the existing temporary lot. He stated that should Commission approve the concept plan, Commission and City Council would also have to approve an update to the Master Plan of Recreation Uses and the project would then go through the required entitlement process. Dominguez said that it is currently a concept plan and open for comments and ideas by Commission and the public. Dominguez asked for questions.

Commissioner Burkhart stated that creating a larger parking lot would require additional land to be set aside for raptor foraging habitat.

Commissioner Mantini asked if a traffic investigation has been performed. Dominguez responded that the last one was performed when the Senior Center was entitled in approximately 2012. Commissioner Mantini suggested some modifications to the design. She asked if there is a plan to put in an ADA pathway. Dominguez said the paths are multi-use for service vehicles and people. They will go through the proper design channels. Commissioner Mantini asked if the concept could be flipped so people could use the street light at the Senior Center for entrance. Dominguez said there was a similar plan prior to this version and that some tweaking would have to be made. Commissioner Mantini noted the trees lining the street side of the lot, and questioned the safety of the lot, saying the trees will make it secluded. Dominguez said that Community services Dept. is looking into a Request for Proposal (RFP) for security to patrol city parks. Laudenback stated that the Police Department is heading up the RFP process.

and feels that there are a lot of areas within the City that can benefit from it, including the parking lot.

Commissioner Kwon said that the plan appears to have been conceptualized several years ago and asked if it has been considered for current needs. Dominguez said that at the time of the temporary lot, there was no Senior Center and funds were not available for a permanent lot. The temporary lot was put in with the idea that it would eventually be made permanent.

Commissioner Carchio felt that there is definitely a need for a permanent lot. He stated that the grade from the lot is too steep to get to Shipley and asked if it is considered in the plan. He also asked about the ADA compliance, safety for kids, and the bus turn around. Commissioner Carchio asked about lighting for safety and if there will be cameras installed. Commissioner Carchio stated that with four new Commissions on board, the this item should be held over to the next Commission meeting. Dominguez answered that no lighting has been proposed but during the entitlement process, it may be brought up as a condition of approval. Commissioner Carchio said he appreciates all of the hard work staff has put into this project, but wasn't prepared to take a vote.

Commissioner Kaub said that Commissioner has been working on this project for five (5) years. She gave background on previous iterations. She also asked for clarification – if the lower level can't be used, she asked if the lot can be made larger and the opening moved, without affecting the settlement agreement. Dominguez said that he will have to ask the City Attorney. Commissioner Kaub asked about the grading and if the access down to the nature center will paved as well. Dominguez pointed out that the grade of the area on the diagram and said that it's not the official pathway, saying it would have to be looked at for ADA compliance. Commissioner Kaub agreed that with four new Commissioners, more time should be taken before a decision is made.

Commissioner Schuetz asked if the primary concept has to do with buses. Dominguez said it did originally because Shipley's began programming for kids, who were brought in by bus.

Commissioner Thiel said he agrees with the comments that the entry should be moved to the traffic light for safety of the buses. He inquired about the area between the Senior Center and the parking lot, asking if the slope can be addressed. Dominguez said yes.

Dominguez said staff is comfortable with this concept fitting into the budget; making it larger would mean going back to Council and requesting for more money. Dominguez added that it can be enlarge toward the Senior Center, but not toward the park due to the settlement agreement.

Commissioner Sterud agreed that the concept plan needs to be looked at again.

Commissioner Benitez said he would like to hear more and feels it should be brought back to the Huntington Central Park Committee for review.

Commissioner Cuzzacrea said that she visited the site and her suggestion is to connect to the Senior Center and not lose any more space.

Commissioner Gasparian said that Commission has spent a lot of time on this item. In the past, the decision was unanimous not to lose more open space. This concept, although not perfect, is what Commission asked from staff. He gave a few samples of the changes that were made. He asked that every be conscious of the size, saying that space will be lost once it's paved.

Commissioner Carchio suggests flipping the plan so that the entry is at the Senior Center traffic signal. Commissioner Carchio asked if it was designed this way for cost. Dominguez said that at the time the temporary lot was developed, there was no Senior Center or driveway, so the modification wasn't considered. Commissioner Carchio feels it will be more beneficial for safety reason.

Commissioner Thiel asked about accident that occurred at this area. Dominguez responded that there have been none to his knowledge.

Chair Kreitz said that safety is important and there should be a permanent lot. He said this parking lot should be design for kids and the disabled, and feels that others can walk from across the street at the large parking lot. Chair Kreitz stated that every inch of land that is paved over is lost, so it should be minimized where it can. Chair Kreitz also agrees that the parking lot should be connected to the Senior Center driveway. He too feels this item should go to the Huntington Central Park Committee.

MOTION: Commissioner Carchio made a motion to move this item to a later date. Commissioner Mantini amended the motion to send the item to the Huntington Central Park Committee for review and that a traffic study be completed. Commissioner Schuetz seconded the motion.

Commissioner Burkart voiced concern that a traffic study may take too long. Dominguez said that he can provide Commission with the traffic analysis created for the Senior Center.

MOTION: The motion was amended to refer the item regarding a permanent parking lot to the Huntington Central Park Committee (HCP) for recommendations to be reviewed by Community Services Commission at a later date, incorporation of the existing traffic analysis.

Ayes: Benitez; Burkhart; Carchio; Cuzzacrea; Gasparian; Kaub; Kreitz; Kwon; Mantini; Schuetz; Sterud; Thiel

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Miller

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS: None

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

Encyclopedia Lots – As requested at a prior meeting, Dominguez provided information on the Encyclopedia Lots, including a diagram and background saying the City has acquired all but 37 lots. He explained that the lots were originally given away with the purchase of a set of encyclopedias in the early 1900s. Funding to purchase the lots is included in the annual Park Acquisition and Development Fund budget. The City tries to acquire the lots as they become available.

Team Room Update – The project is under construction. It's a 400' building that will also house a staff office. Due to the recent rain delays, it looks like it will be completed at the end of February and up and running in March.

Worth Park Reconfiguration Project – Dominguez said that they are working on contract issues with the contractor prior to issuing the intent. The estimated time of completion is the end of May or possible into June. Commissioner Kaub asked if the school is aware of the schedule, and Dominguez said the school situation was one of the first things discussed with the contractor at the kick-off meeting.

Naming Options for Delbert “Bud” Higgins and Frank L. Ciarelli – Dominguez gave history on this item, saying that Commission approved Committee's recommendations and forwarded to Council, who tweaked the motion, and returned it to Commission. Dominguez said that this item will go to the Park Naming & Memorials Committee once new Commissioners are appointed to the Committee.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS:

A communication was received from Shari Engel regarding Item F-1.

COMMISSION BUSINESS:

Huntington Central Park Committee – Committee Chair Kaub updated Commission on the Huntington Central Park Committee meeting held on January 11, 2017. She reported that the HCP Committee is now working in tandem with the Council's Committee and will meet with them quarterly. Commission's HCP Committee will meet less formally with the stakeholders for ease of discussion and will now include the parking lot issue.

Youth Sports Grant Committee – In Committee Chair Miller's absence, Dominguez reported that a meeting was held on November 16, 2016 to go over the application with the youth organizations. Applications are out and due back January 27, 2017. Committee is scheduled to meet and go over the applications received on February 8, 2017, and a site tour is scheduled for February 15.

COMMISSION AND STAFF COMMENTS:

Chair Kreitz said he appreciates the respective Committees' efforts and City Council for bringing the park naming issue back to Commission. Chair Kreitz asked if any Commissioners are interested in serving on the Circulation Task Force to let him or Dominguez know.

Commissioners Kwon, Kaub, Gasparian, Benitez and Chair Kreitz all welcomed the new Commissioners.

Commissioner Thiel said he was happy to participate in tonight's meeting.

ITEMS DISTRIBUTED TO COMMISSION: None

ADJOURNMENT:

With no further business, Chair Kreitz adjourned the meeting at 7:59 pm.

Submitted by:

David C. Dominguez
Secretary
Community Services Commission

By: Charlene Gomez
Recording Secretary